

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a hierarchical coding unit to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

a distributively storing unit to distributively store the compressed codes that are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding unit.

2. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, and comprising:

a hierarchical coding unit to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

a distributively storing unit to distributively store the compressed codes that are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding unit into a storage unit of each of the other electronic equipments.

3. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus comprising:

hierarchical coding means for compressing and coding the image data in a state where

the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

distributively storing means for distributively storing the compressed codes that are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding means.

4. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, and comprising:

hierarchical coding means for compressing and coding the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

distributively storing means for distributively storing the compressed codes that are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding means into storage means of each of the other electronic equipments.

5. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a rectangular region coding unit to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

a distributively storing unit to distributively store the compressed codes that are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding unit.

6. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the rectangular region coding unit compresses and codes the image data with a decomposition level dependent on a type of the image data, a type of region of the image data, a type of source

electronic equipment of the image data or, an external instruction.

7. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, and comprising:

a rectangular region coding unit to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

a distributively storing unit to distributively store the compressed codes which are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding unit into a storage unit of each of the other electronic equipments.

8. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the rectangular region coding unit compresses and codes the image data with a decomposition level dependent on a type of the image data, a type of region of the image data, a type of source electronic equipment of the image data or, an external instruction.

9. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus comprising:

rectangular region coding means for compressing and coding the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

distributively storing means for distributively storing the compressed codes that are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding means.

10. An image processing apparatus for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the image processing apparatus forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, and comprising:

rectangular region coding means for compressing and coding the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

distributively storing means for distributively storing the compressed codes that are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding means into storage means of each of the other electronic equipments.

11. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image data processing method for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the method comprising:

causing the computer to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

causing the computer to distributively store the compressed codes which are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding procedure.

12. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image data processing method for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is

divided, the computer forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, the method comprising:

causing the computer to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each hierarchical layer, to obtain compressed codes; and

causing the computer to distributively store the compressed codes which are divided for each hierarchical layer by the hierarchical coding procedure into a storage unit of each of the other electronic equipments.

13. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image data processing method for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the method comprising:

causing the computer to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

causing the computer to distributively store the compressed codes which are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding procedure.

14. The article of manufacture as claimed in claim 13, wherein causing the computer to compress and code comprises causing the computer to compress and code the image data with a decomposition level dependent on a type of the image data, a type of region of the image data, a type of source electronic equipment of the image data or, an external instruction.

15. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to

perform an image data processing method for hierarchically compressing and coding image data by subjecting pixel values of the image data to a discrete wavelet transform, quantization and coding for each of one or a plurality of rectangular regions into which the image data is divided, the computer forming an electronic equipment which is coupled to a network having other electronic equipments coupled thereto, the method comprising:

causing the computer to compress and code the image data in a state where the image data is divided for each rectangular region, to obtain compressed codes; and

causing the computer to distributively store the compressed codes which are divided for each rectangular region by the rectangular region coding procedure into a storage unit of each of the other electronic equipments.

16. The article of manufacture as claimed in claim 15, wherein causing the computer to compress and code comprises causing the computer to compress and code the image data with a decomposition level dependent on a type of the image data, a type of region of the image data, a type of source electronic equipment of the image data or, an external instruction.